

## Wealth-Markets-Investments

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**New Financing in Prospect**  
In addition to taking care of \$22,500,000 note obligations of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and an issue of \$5,000,000 notes of the Hocking Valley, both of which fall due February 1, bankers have under consideration a plan for raising new capital for the Cuba Cane Sugar Corporation, whose annual report recently issued showed a floating debt of approximately \$12,000,000. It was reported yesterday that the new issue will not only provide enough money to wipe out the current liabilities, but that a substantial amount will also be raised for new working capital.

The Baltimore & Ohio, in all probability, will receive financial assistance from the War Finance Corporation in meeting its February maturity. When the notes fall due four months ago the railroad administration advanced the funds to the holders who refused to extend.

Bankers were in conference yesterday over the Hocking Valley maturity, and an announcement is expected shortly of a plan for renewing the notes. Other February maturities include \$7,500,000 extended 5 per cent notes of the Argentine Railway and \$2,000,000 Canadian Northern first land grant 4 per cent bonds.

## Finance - Economics

WALL STREET OFFICE:  
Mills Building, 15 Broad St.

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"The Iron Age" is authority for the statement that American billets have been quoted for export at \$50 per ton freight alongside, while the British established export price is about \$65. American steel bars have been offered at \$72.50, which is about \$20 a ton lower than the British product. Though reductions on ocean freight have recently been made on American ships which has somewhat lessened the handicap on shipments to the Far East, charges for New York are roughly three to three and a half times those for Liverpool. This situation cannot persist for long. It means that unless British prices are very materially lowered America will get the trade. Yet the reports are that the British iron industry is now unusually prosperous and going ahead at full speed.

One journal in the iron trade believes that present conditions presage a boom.

There is a growing surplus of funds in the banks. This can only mean that, after the next Liberty Loan is out of the way, unless there is a marked change in the situation, money will be easy. There is a steady improvement in the labor market, from the point of view of employers. First of all, they can get the labor now, and, secondly, they can pick and choose. There is still a lack of tonnage for exports, but the present indications seem to be that here too the supply will soon improve. Easy money, efficient labor, increasing exports, acting upon a nation which has enormously profited by the war and whose expenditures in many lines have been held sharply in check by government restrictions and likewise by high prices and the lack of labor, could, it would seem, have but one possible effect. Shrewd judges of the markets seem generally agreed that an unusual volume of peace business will come before the end of the year.

With London money rates returning to their old position, averaging one-fourth or more below commercial rates in New York, the promise that this city was to become the financial centre of the world does not loom so large.

There was a tip for the tipsters in the action of the Steel Corporation in setting the subscription price of stock to their employees this year at about two points above the market rate, instead of two points below, as has been the custom heretofore. The lists are open until February 28, a month later than usual.

Testimony taken at the inquiries into the cost of producing cotton in the South shows that in Georgia the average of wages has risen from about \$15 per month to \$25. Such a wage scale seems amazing. But this wage, which is expected to maintain an average family, includes a shanty, a garden patch, a cow and a bit of wood lot. It is not a starvation wage. Nevertheless, when it is compared with the average cash income of the steel workers, for example, of \$1,500 last year, the contrast seems wide.

It is an item of news that Professor Felix Frankfurter is coming to New York in an endeavor to effect a settlement in the threatened clothing strike.

## Money and Credit

Offerings of call money were fairly liberal at the Stock Exchange yesterday. Most of the business was done on a basis of 4 1/2 to 5 per cent, a slight advance over Wednesday. Easier conditions continued to be reflected in the market for fixed date funds. Rates were lower at 5 1/4 to 5 1/2 per cent, although the demand is still light, brokers financing most of their requirements in the call market. Ruling rates for money yesterday compared with a year ago, were as follows:

	Yesterday	Year ago
Call money:		
On mixed collateral 4 1/2	5	6
On industrial CTVI 5	5	6
Time money (mixed collateral):		
Sixty days 5 1/2 @ 534		
Ninety days 5 1/2 @ 534		
Four months 5 1/2 @ 534		
Five to six months 5 1/2 @ 534		

**Commercial Paper.**—Banks are buying larger amounts of commercial paper. Business was done on an active scale in the local market yesterday at 5 per cent, the lowest rate in more than a year. Note brokers complain of a paucity of dry goods paper in the market. This, they say, is a reflection of the general policy of such concerns to restrict their forward buying of goods in view of the uncertainty of prices. As a result of this policy the dry goods houses are doing comparatively little borrowing, although this is normally a time of year when they are quite active in the commercial paper market.

**Bank Acceptances.**—The general easing of the money position has resulted

In a more active market for bank acceptances, particularly bills eligible for rediscount at the Federal Reserve Bank.

Spot delivery:	Eligible member banks	Eligible non-member banks	Ineligible bank bills
4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2
4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2
4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2	4 1/2 @ 4 1/2

Discount Rates.—The following table gives the current rates of the twelve Federal Reserve banks on commercial paper for all periods up to ninety days:

Bank	Rate
Boston	4 1/2
New York	4 1/2
Philadelphia	4 1/2
Cleveland	4 1/2
Richmond	4 1/2
Atlanta	4 1/2
Chicago	4 1/2
St. Louis	4 1/2
Minneapolis	4 1/2
Kansas City	4 1/2
Dallas	4 1/2
San Francisco	4 1/2

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York has put in force the following schedule of rediscount rates which apply to bankers' acceptances: Maturities up to 15 days, 4 per cent; 16 to 60 days, inclusive, 4 1/2 per cent; 61 to 90 days, inclusive, 4 3/4 per cent.

**Bank Clearings.**—Bank clearings yesterday were:

	Exchanges	Balances
New York	\$965,988,257	\$76,982,057
Baltimore	14,152,253	5,762,887
Philadelphia	71,722,019	17,822,122
Boston	79,780,921	21,087,643

**Silver.**—London, 48 1/2, unchanged; New York, 101 1/2, unchanged; Mexican dollars, 77 1/2, unchanged.

**Sub-Treasury.**—The Sub-Treasury gained \$23,000 from the banks on Tuesday.

**Bank of England.**—LONDON, Jan. 16.—The Bank of England yesterday reported an increase in gold holdings of \$22,600. The proportion of reserves to liabilities now stands at 19.14 per cent, compared with 17.12 last week. The statement, with the changes from last week, follows:

	Gold	Reserve	Notes	Circulation	Public dep.	Other dep.	Gov. secur.	Other secur.
Jan. 16	\$80,544,216	\$29,295,000	\$26,548,000	\$69,695,000	\$28,168,000	\$124,797,000	\$62,567,000	\$78,888,000
Dec. 15	\$80,544,216	\$29,295,000	\$26,548,000	\$69,695,000	\$28,168,000	\$124,797,000	\$62,567,000	\$78,888,000

**London Money Market.**—LONDON, Jan. 16.—Money was firm at 3 per cent. Discount rates were short and three months' bills, 2 1/2-3 1/2 per cent. Gold premiums at Lisbon were at 67.

**The Dollar in Foreign Exchange**  
Exchange on Paris displayed an easier tone in the local market yesterday. Increased offerings were attributed to selling of francs in anticipation of the maturing of the French loan on April 1, payable in francs. It was reported that large sales of cables had been made in anticipation of this maturity at 5.46 1/2. Another factor in the market for French exchange was the action of the French High Commission in reducing freight rates from New York to French ports.

Other exchanges were quiet and changes were small.

Closing rates yesterday, compared with a week ago, follow:

	Yesterday	Week ago
Sterling, demand	\$4.75 3/4	\$4.75 1/2
Sterling, sixty days	4.73 1/2	4.73 1/2
Sterling, cables	4.76 1/2	4.76 1/2
Sterling, ninety days	4.71 1/2	4.71 1/2

(Quoted units to the dollar.)

	Yesterday	Week ago
France, checks	5.45 3/4	5.45 3/4
France, cables	5.45 3/4	5.45 3/4
France, checks	5.45 3/4	5.45 3/4
France, cables	5.45 3/4	5.45 3/4
France, checks	5.45 3/4	5.45 3/4
France, cables	5.45 3/4	5.45 3/4

(Quoted cents to the unit.)

	Yesterday	Week ago
Guider, checks	42 1/2	42 1/2
Guider, cables	42 1/2	42 1/2
Rubles, checks	13.00	13.00
Spain, checks	20.12	20.12
Spain, cables	20.20	20.20
Sweden, checks	28.75	28.75
Sweden, cables	29.00	29.00
Denmark, checks	26.62	26.62
Denmark, cables	26.65	26.65
Norway, checks	27.75	27.75
Norway, cables	28.00	28.00
Argentina, checks	45 1/4	45 1/4
Argentina, cables	44 1/4	44 1/4
India, rupees, checks	35.3	35.3
India, rupees, cables	35.34	35.34
India, rupees, cables	35.73	35.73

\*Nominal.

Below is given the current exchange value of foreign money in dollars and cents, together with the intrinsic gold parity, as calculated by the United States Mint:

	Current exchange	Intrinsic value
Pounds, sterling	\$4.75 3/4	\$4.86 1/2
France, cables	0.184	0.193
Guider, cables	0.4834	0.402
France, cables	0.156	0.193
Crowns (Denmark)	0.2675	0.268
Crowns (Sweden)	0.2645	0.268

The above rates express the cost of foreign money in terms of the American dollar. You buy an English pound sterling, say, at \$4.75 3/4. The intrinsic parity is \$4.86 1/2 per pound. Thus you say either that pounds are at a discount or that dollars are at a premium, which is owing to the fact that in England the demand for dollars with which to settle accounts in this country is greater than the demand in this country for pounds with which to settle accounts in England.

## Prohibition Will Not Close Plants Of Distillers Co.

Forms Concern To Handle Export Business and Will Devote Machinery to Making of Industrial Alcohol

Although a sufficient number of states have now acted favorably on the national prohibition amendment, the Distillers Securities Corporation, which represents 40 per cent of the distilling interests of the country, announced that it intends to continue in business. When the company has disposed of its stock of whiskey now in bond it will turn its attention to the manufacture of industrial alcohol and chemicals. The Transoceanic Commercial Corporation, recently organized under the laws of New York State with a capital of \$1,000,000, according to an announcement yesterday, will take charge of the export of whiskeys, spirits, alcohol and other products and by-products of the distillers company, "some of which are already being produced and others in contemplation; and also to do a general exporting and importing business of all kinds."

Norman R. Sterne is the president of the new exporting subsidiary. The board of directors, in addition to Mr. Sterne, includes Henry H. Wehrhane, Theodore F. Reynolds, Alvin W. Krech and Julius Kessler, four of whom are directors of the Distillers Securities Corporation. Officials of the Distillers Corporation explained yesterday that the exportation of distilled liquors would continue only so long as it did not contravene the Federal laws. After that an effort will be made to continue the foreign end of the business by concentrating attention on the exportation of industrial alcohol. It is believed that an important field for this product will be opened in Norway and Sweden, where alcohol has been used extensively for motor and fuel purposes. The export corporation has already begun operations at 27 William Street.

As a result of the organization of this company the Distillers Corporation hopes to facilitate the sale of its whiskey in bond. The total stocks of distilled liquors now in the country's warehouses amount to more than 100,000,000 gallons, of which perhaps 75 per cent represents distilled beverages. These are spirits which the Federal taxes have not yet been paid, so the total would be added to greatly by including unused liquors in the hands of retailers and consumers.

The company's distilleries are now working night and day to fill the demand that has been created not only by the probability of national prohibition but because of the high tax, \$6.40 a gallon, that will have to be paid on whiskey when the present revenue bill becomes a law.

## British Noteholders Convert to Bonds

Less Than \$100,000,000 of Big Issue Will Have To Be Paid

Over \$50,000,000 of the \$150,000,000 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland 5 1/2 per cent notes, maturing on February 1 next, have been converted into twenty-year 5 1/2 per cent bonds of Great Britain, according to an announcement made yesterday at the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co. Further conversions are expected to be made, so that the amount of notes that will have to be paid off in cash on the first of next month will be considerably reduced. The British government has waived the right to require ten days' notice of intention to convert, so that holders can convert at any time up to the date of the maturity. Approximately \$8,000,000 of the notes have been retired by the sale of the collateral behind them. On December 1 there had been less than \$9,000,000 converted into the long term issue. By January 3 this had increased to \$13,700,000. Since then \$36,000,000 have been turned in for conversion. The notes into which the notes are being converted are the only long term obligations of the British government which are dealt in in this market apart from the Anglo-French 5s.

## U. S. Tests 17,000 Seeds

Nearly 17,000 samples of seed were tested for last year at the seed-testing laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington, and 11,349 samples at the five branch laboratories maintained in co-operation with State institutions.

## Significant Relations

Money and Prices:

Stock of money gold in the country... \$3,080,510,111  
Nov. 1, 1918... \$3,040,449,343  
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